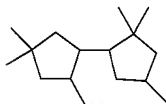


**Amendments to the Claims**

The "Listing of Claims" replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

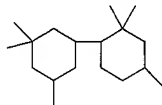
**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The A cosmetic preparation of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula I is a~~ comprising a hexamethyl dicyclopentane compound of the formula (III):



(III).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The A cosmetic preparation of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula I is a~~ comprising a hexamethyl dicyclohexane compound of the formula (IV):

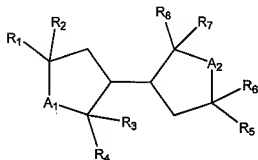


(IV).

4. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic preparation of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the amount of the compound of formula (I) ~~in the~~ present in the cosmetic preparation is from 0.1% to 50% by weight of the cosmetic preparation.

5. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic preparation of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the amount of the compound ~~of formula (I) in the~~ present in the cosmetic preparation is from 0.1% to 30% by weight of the preparation.

6. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula (I):

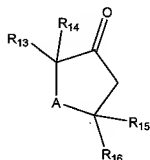


(I)

wherein each of R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>12</sub> is independently hydrogen or a linear C<sub>1-20</sub> alkyl group each of A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> is a 1, 2 or 3 ring carbon atom wherein A<sub>1</sub> is substituted by R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> is substituted by R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub>; and wherein at least one of R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>12</sub> is a linear alkyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

7. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 6 wherein each of the ring structures is a cyclopentane ring or a cyclohexane ring.

8. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a compound of claim 6 comprising the steps of: (a) reacting a cycloalkanone of the formula (II):



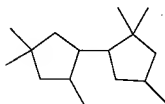
(II)

wherein each of  $R_{13}$ - $R_{18}$  is independently hydrogen or a linear  $C_{1-20}$  alkyl group; A is a 1, 2 or 3 ring carbon atom substituted by  $R_{17}$  and  $R_{18}$  with a base to form an aldol condensation product; (b) forming a neutralised product by contacting the aldol condensation with acid; (3) hydrogenating the neutralised product.

9. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 8 wherein the cycloalkanone is 2,2,4-trimethylcyclopentanone or 2,2,4-trimethylcyclohexanone.

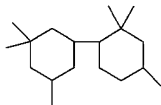
10-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) The A pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein the compound of formula I is a comprising a hexamethyl dicyclopentane compound of the formula (III):



(III).

15. (Currently Amended) The A pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein the ~~compound of formula I~~ is a comprising a hexamethyl dicyclohexane compound of the formula (IV):



(IV).

16. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~[[13]]~~ 14, wherein the amount of the compound present in the pharmaceutical of formula (I) in the composition is from 0.1% to 50% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

17. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~[[13]]~~ 14, wherein the amount of the compound present in the pharmaceutical of formula (I) in the composition is from 0.1% to 30% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

18. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein the amount of the compound present in the pharmaceutical composition is from 0.1% to 50% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

19. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein the amount of the compound present in the pharmaceutical composition is from 0.1% to 30% by weight of the composition.

20. (New) The cosmetic preparation of claim 3 wherein the amount of the compound present in the cosmetic preparation is from 0.1% to 50% by weight of the cosmetic preparation.

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21. (New) The cosmetic preparation of claim 3 wherein the amount of the compound present in the cosmetic preparation is from 0.1% to 30% by weight of the cosmetic preparation.